WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for interrogating the surface of a substrate comprising a plurality of features, said apparatus comprising:

(a) a source of light,

(b) a holder for a substrate,

(c) a linear actuator motor with a driver for moving said holder with respect to said source of light,

(d) a power supply for the linear actuator motor and driver, and

(e) circuitry that disables one or more outputs of said power supply.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said circuitry disables all power outputs of said power supply.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said circuitry disables less than all power outputs of said power supply.

4. An apparatus according to Claim 3 wherein said circuitry disables the power outputs of said power supply to said driver.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said circuitry comprises sense circuitry that detects failure of power outputs of said power supply

6. An apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said circuitry comprises sense circuitry that detects energy at said motor or said driver.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said linear actuator motor is a voice coil motor and said driver is a voice coil driver.

8. An apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said circuitry comprises sense circuitry comprising a detection circuit to determine if the sense circuitry is connected to disable circuitry of the power supply.

9. An apparatus according to Claim 8 wherein said detection circuit determines the supply voltage less the forward drop across an LED of the disable circuitry.

10. An apparatus according to Claim 8 wherein said sense circuitry comprises detection circuit for indicating inability of the sense circuitry to function.

11. An apparatus according to Claim 10 wherein said detection circuit intercepts an enable signal for the driver.

12. An apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein a disable signal from the power supply causes the power supply to shut down entirely or to shut down one or more of the power outputs.

13. An apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said circuitry comprises sense circuitry that resides at the driver

14. A method for reducing damage to a linear actuator motor, or a linear actuator motor and a driver therefor, powered by a power supply, said method comprising disabling one or more power outputs of said power supply.

15. A method according to Claim 14 comprising disabling all power outputs of said power supply.

16. A method according to Claim 14 comprising disabling less than all power outputs of said power supply.

17. A method according to Claim 16 wherein comprising disabling the power outputs of said power supply to said driver.

18. A method according to Claim 14 comprising sensing an energy level at the voice coil driver above a predetermined level prior to said disabling.

19. A method according to Claim 14 comprising sensing a failure of one or more power outputs of the power supply prior to said disabling.

20. A method for reducing damage to components in a voice coil motor and a voice coil driver powered by a power supply, said method comprising:

(a) determining a failure of one or more of the power outputs of the power supply used by the voice coil motor and the voice coil driver and/or determining energy in the voice coil motor outside a predetermined range and

(b) causing the power supply to shut down entirely or to shut down less than all of the power outputs of said power supply if a failure is determined and/or if energy outside a predetermined range is determined.

21. A method according to Claim 20 wherein said failure and/or said energy is determined by sense circuitry residing at the driver.

22. A method according to Claim 21 wherein said sense circuitry comprises a detection circuit to determine if the sense circuitry is connected to disable circuitry of the power supply.

23. A method according to Claim 22 wherein said detection circuit determines the supply voltage less the forward drop across an LED of the disable circuitry.

24. A method according to Claim 21 wherein said sense circuitry comprises a detection circuit for indicating inability of the sense circuitry to function.

25. A method according to Claim 24 wherein said detection circuit intercepts an enable signal for the driver.

26. A method according to Claim 20 wherein a power supply disable signal is employed to cause the power supply to shut down entirely or to shut down less than all of the power outputs.

27. A method according to Claim 20 wherein the power supply, the voice coil and the driver are part of a microarray interrogation apparatus.

28. A method for reducing thermal damage to electrical devices associated with moving components relative to one another wherein the electrical devices comprise a motor and a driver and are powered by a power supply, said method comprising:

(a) sensing the power outputs of the power supply used by the electrical devices and/or the current at the motor or the driver,

(b) determining whether one or more of the power outputs sensed in (a) are outside a predetermined range and/or whether the current at the motor or the driver sensed in (a) is outside a predetermined range, and

(c) causing the power supply to shut down entirely or to shut down less than all of the power outputs if one or more of the power outputs are outside the predetermined range and/or if the current at the motor or driver is outside a predetermined range.

29. A method according to Claim 28 wherein said components comprise a voice coil motor and a voice coil driver and said method comprises:

(a) sensing the power outputs of the power supply used by the voice coil motor and the voice coil driver,

(b) determining whether one or more of the power outputs sensed in (a) are outside a predetermined range, and

(c) causing the power supply to shut down entirely or to shut down the power outputs if one or more of the power outputs are outside the predetermined range.

30. A method according to Claim 28 wherein said sensing is carried out by sense circuitry residing at the driver.

31. A method according to Claim 30 wherein said sensing comprises determining if the sense circuitry is connected to disable circuitry of the power supply.

32. A method according to Claim 28 wherein said sensing comprises determining the supply voltage less the forward drop across an LED of disable circuitry of said power supply.

33. A method according to Claim 30 wherein said sensing comprises a detection circuit for indicating inability of said sense circuitry to function.

34. A method according to Claim 33 comprising intercepting an enable signal for the driver.

35. A method according to Claim 28 comprising employing a power supply disable signal to cause the power supply to shut down entirely or to shut down less than all of the power outputs.

36. A method according to Claim 28 wherein the power supply and the components are part of a microarray interrogation apparatus.

37. A method according to Claim 28 wherein said components comprise a voice coil motor and a voice coil driver and said method comprises:

(a) sensing the current at the voice coil motor or the voice coil driver,

(b) determining whether the current sensed in (a) is outside a predetermined range, and

(c) causing the power supply to shut down entirely or to shut down the power outputs if the current is outside the predetermined range.

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